



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR
THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-3445)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Anne S. Hill, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio and Commissioner Barbara Bigby

Called to Order. (13-3350)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioners Hill and Burton joined the meeting at 10:14 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. respectively.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of the July 10, 2013 Minutes. (13-3348)

During the review of the minutes Commissioner Andrews reemphasized the need for the Commissioners to desist from the side-bar conversations, noting that they interfere with every one's ability to clearly hear what is being reported and/or presented. Commissioner Grills concurred and clarified that the Commission's meetings are governed by Roberts Rules of Order and therefore the meetings should be held in accordance.

On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Anne S. Hill and unanimously carried, the minutes of July 10, 2013 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representatives Reports for July 17, 2013.

Department of Auditor-Controller
Monthly Report

Department of Children and Family Services
Monthly Report

Discussion regarding the extracurricular activities that are being offered to the youth in the group homes.

Internal Services Department
Monthly Report

Follow-up report regarding the inspection and findings of the Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse.

Department of Mental Health
Monthly Report

Probation Department
Monthly Report

Discussion regarding the extracurricular activities that are being offered to the Probation youth.

Sheriff's Department
Monthly Report

Recommendations and discussion regarding the Sybil Brand Commission Lock-up Facilities Inspection Form.

Discussion regarding the inspection findings at the Inglewood Courthouse.
(13-3002)

DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S (AC)

Ms. Michele Day, A-C, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed the copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the month of June 2013 as follows:

- **19 Total phone calls:**
 - **13 Youth**
 - **6 Adults**

- **22 Total calls related to the following:**
 - **Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information**
 - **6 - Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**
 - **3 - Child Protection Hotline**
 - **5 - Group Home**
 - **1 - Department of Mental Health (DMH)**
 - **4 - Probation Ombudsman**
 - **2 - Crittenton**
 - **2 - Trinity Apple Valley - regarding issues with bed bugs**
 - **3 - General Inquiries**

- **11 Total calls from youth related to the following:**
 - **7 - Personal Rights**
 - **2 - Contact**
 - **2 - Living Conditions (David & Margaret; Penny Lane)**
 - **2 - Health/Med, Dental**
 - **Psych Care (1 - Children's Homes of So. CA; 1 - Casa Esperanza)**
 - **1 - Respect**
 - **Marco Homes**
 - **3 - Personal**
 - **2 - Fear, Threats, Intimidation**
 - **1 - Children's Home of So. CA**
 - **1 - McKinley**
 - **1 - Neglect (Children Are Our Future)**
 - **1 - Other**
 - **CSW Related Issues (David & Margaret)**

- **3 Visits/Outreach**
 - **1 - Casa Esperanza**
 - **1 - St. Anne's Maternity Home**
 - **1 - McKinley Children's Center**

- **Issues expressed during visits**
 - **4 - CSW not having contact/visit**

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

Ms. Patricia Bolanos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator III, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported the following:

- **16 Referrals from June 19 – July 16, 2013**
 - **2 - Sexual abuse**
 - **5 - Physical abuse**
 - **9 - General neglect**

- **13 Closed referrals**
 - **5 - General Neglect**
 - **5 - Unfounded**
 - **4 - Physical Abuse**
 - **1 - Inconclusive**
 - **3 - Unfounded**
 - **2 - Sexual Abuse**
 - **1 - Evaluated out**
 - **1 - Unfounded**
 - **2 Emotional Abuse**
 - **1 - Substantiated**
 - **1 - Evaluated out**

She further reported on the number of youth that were Absent Without Leave (AWOL) during the following reporting periods:

- **From June 19-31, 2013**
 - **257 AWOLs**
- **From July 1-16, 2013**
 - **348 AWOLs**

Ms. Bolanos Gonzalez informed the Commission that there are two homes on hold: Boy's Town (now compliant), and the hold will be lifted; and Washington Hancock is still on hold due to numerous deficiencies. The hold on Fred Jefferson Memorial was lifted in late June 2013.

In response to Commissioner Andrew's question regarding the Need and Services Plan (NSP), Ms. Rhonda Shirley-David, Children Services Administrator II, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, explained that NSP's are to be kept at the facility where the youth reside (group homes) at all times as specified by the State of California

Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division and there are no exemptions. She encouraged the Commissioners to report to DCSF and/or Probation Department, any agency that is non-compliant with the requirement. Ms. Shirley-David further added that DCFS is planning a training in the near future to specifically address/explain the NSP requirements to the providers.

Commissioner Grills expressed concerns that some group homes are not providing the extracurricular activities that would cultivate the youth's talents. DCFS will investigate the concerns and report back at the next business meeting.

INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ISD)

There was no report given.

MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MHD)

There was no report given.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT (PD)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance, PD, reported on the status of AWOLs for the month of June 2013 as follows:

- **140 AWOLS**
 - 126 - Youth involved
 - 13 - Repeat offenders
 - 55 - Remain AWOL
 - 39 - Returned to Group Home
 - 22 - Juvenile hall
 - 2 - Termed out
 - 2 - Home on probation
 - 4 - Camp orders
 - 2 - Community detention program

Ms. Pease also reported that there were no group homes on hold for the month of June 2013.

The following referrals were reported:

- **4 – Child Abuse Referrals**
 - 3 – Unfounded
 - 1 - Inconclusive

- **2 Group Home Investigations**
 - **1 - Unfounded**
 - **1 - Substantiated**

Mr. Michael Varela, Director of Camp Gonzales, reported that Camp Gonzales will be closed for three months in order to completely tear down and rebuild the roof that was severely damaged from the moisture coming from the air conditioning unit. He further advised that the Department of Justice was instrumental in making it a requirement for the youth to be engaged in counseling and/or vocational program to allow the youth living in the camps to have the opportunity to receive 6-8 college credits for taking culinary classes and courses in car repairs at Mission College and Los Angeles Trade Tech, respectively. Additionally, a transitional program is in place to ensure that the youth continue to attend school and receive on-going counseling after they have been released.

Mr. Varela further reported that in May 2013, four youth from Camp Gonzales, competed against 39 other schools' advanced placement classes and placed number one in public services announcements category and placed sixth in the overall. The youth were recognized at the Board of Supervisors.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (SD)

Commander Warren Asmus, Court Services Division, SD, reported that Commander Cooper has been reassigned from the Custody Services Division to the Court Services Division. He also announced that he has been appointed to the position of Chief of Staff to the Sheriff. A new representative will be assigned to the Commission beginning next month.

Commander Asmus also introduced, Captain Joseph Nunez of the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF), SD. Captain Nunez reported that there is a rise in the number of inmate-on-inmate assaults in the women's facility, CDRF. This is due to the increase in the number of women with mental health cases, as well as, the change in the prisons' culture resulting from trying to adjust to the new Public Safety Realignment, Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109). Captain Nunez further stated that the Assistant Sheriff, Terri McDonald, is in support of adopting alternative housing programs to relieve the overcrowded women's jail.

A pilot program was established and twenty (20) AB 109 women were selected to live in the alternative housing as they serve their sentences.

Similarly, there is a "Program 180;" that provides mental health and drug misuse counseling and assistance to inmates who have approximately nine months to serve their jail terms.

Captain Nunez further informed the Commission that the State women's prisons, have implemented a Women's Advisory Council to give women inmates a voice to discuss their concerns and issues with the command staff. He also advised that they are in the process of installing video cameras inside the jail facility to monitor the staff and inmates' behaviors.

Commander Asmus provided a report on the status of the construction of the Long Beach Courthouse which is currently running two weeks ahead of schedule; training schedules will begin at the end of July; the courthouse realignment is transitioning smoothly. Continuing his report, Commander Asmus advised the Commission that the Sheriff's Department does not have any additional recommendation to the Sybil Brand Commission lock up inspection form. He concurred with the form as revised.

Commissioner Burton reported that she visited the CRDF to observe some of the innovative programs being implemented by the Sheriff Department, which include a choir, beauty shop, adult bonding with children, transitioning back to the community and the reading literacy program. She described her experience as pleasant and suggested to Chairperson Montaño to schedule all the Commissioners to go visit CDRF as well. The Commissioners were in concurrence.

Commissioner Burton further advised Commander Asmus of the non-satisfactory findings during her and Commissioner Grills' visit and inspection of the Inglewood Courthouse. Some of the concerns were that water was not available for the inmates, the sinks were not working, and the sink in one of the cells was stopped-up with leech-like bugs floating in the water. Commander Asmus will follow up on the concerns.

3. Chairperson's Report on various items for July 17, 2013. (13-3349)

Chairperson Montaño shared the following Newspaper Articles:

- **Los Angeles Times:**
 - **FEMALE INMATE SURGERY BROKE LAW (July 14, 2013)**
 - **Cruel but not unusual (July 14, 2013)**
 - **Five angry bosses (July 15, 2013)**
 - **Building a better jail (July 17, 2013)**
 - **Men's jail could be replaced (July 17, 2013)**
 - **A crime against mentally ill (July 17, 2013)**

- **Daily Breeze:**
 - **Men's jail to face wrecking ball, but replacement up in air (July 17, 2013)**
 - **Sterilizations put receiver on the spot (July 17, 2013)**

Commissioner Burton's email regarding the article titled "Female inmates sterilized without required OK," published in the San Francisco Chronicle on July 7, 2013, was distributed to the Commissioners. Commissioner Burton further reported that the mental health ward inmates are cuffed to an apparatus all day, regardless of their offenses; the cuffs are on the inmates through the entire time that they are participating in any kind of activity, including taking a shower. She expressed that there is a need for another method of restraint and at the least provide the inmates with some materials for art, reading, and/or writing as an alternative to watching TV while cuffed to a table, speculating that some of the prisoners may remain in that inhumane condition for years. She recommended that training may be needed for the officers as well.

Chairperson Montañó reported that she will be scheduling the Commissioners to go and conduct some jail inspections and inquired about their availability. Commissioner Burton recommended to the Chairperson that the Commissioners should be assigned to conduct jail inspections according to their availability rather than waiting for all to be available and/or going to one location at the same time. On that note Chairperson Montano assigned Commissioners Grills and Burton to go and conduct the inspection of CRDF on July 18, 2013.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for July 17, 2013. (13-3351)

There were no treasurer's report given.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for July 17, 2013 (13-3352)

Ms. Bolaji Famuyiwa, Staff, Commission Services, handed the compliance monitoring audit review reports that were received from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services to Chairperson Montaña.

Staff also reminded Chairperson Montaña that Commissioners Bigby, Burton and Grills have requested to be excused from the July 24, 2013 meeting.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on July 17, 2013. (13-3353)

There were no monitoring audit reports given.

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from July 11, 2013 to July 16, 2013. (13-3354)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited the Children's Home of Southern California, Page 7, #3, on July 12, 2013. They reported that the NSPs were not on site, but can be accessed from the computer.**
- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Lomita Sheriff Station on July 15, 2013.**
- **Commissioners Burton and Grills visited Cunningham Group Home, Page 9, #3, on July 16, 2013. They mentioned that the fire extinguisher needs updating, bedroom closet door needs repair and the boys' bedrooms could be cleaner, because it had an odor.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

8. **Matters Not Posted**

Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-3356)

For the next business meeting agenda, Commissioner Grills recommended

that the Department of Mental Health representative be advised to come prepared to discuss their role in caring for the inmates, as well as, their opinion on the adequacy or inadequacy of the conditions of the mental health inmates.

Public Comment

- 9.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-3357)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

- 10.** Adjournment for the meeting of July 17, 2013. (13-3358)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of July 17, 2013 at 11:53 a.m.